



STATE OF MICHIGAN
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

Statement of Jake Rollow, spokesperson for the Michigan Department of State, in response to the meritless videos released by ASOG attorney Matthew DePerno:

“After his previous attempt to spread disinformation about Antrim County – a bogus ‘report’ about voting machines that has already been debunked – failed spectacularly, Mr. DePerno has again resorted to spreading lies in a desperate attempt to confuse voters. The truth is that voting machines counted ballots accurately, as the full hand tally of all presidential election ballots cast in Antrim County proved. The claims in DePerno’s videos are absurd on their face, and further evidence of his complete and willful lack of knowledge of election administration. There are blank ballots in ballot containers because that is where poll workers are instructed to place the unused ballots. There are no ‘spoiled ballot bags’ in polling places and there was no such bag at the audit. And there are no signatures on ballots. In some cases, votes for write-in candidates may appear in the same handwriting because the same poll worker has duplicated ballots in accordance with Michigan election law, such as ballots cast by military/overseas voters and voters with disabilities, for tabulation. This was clearly explained in DePerno’s presence, but he chose to omit this detail. The purpose of the audit was to count ballots cast in the presidential election, but ballots are retained for 22 months and anyone who wants to investigate write-in ballots is free to do so. The audit was livestreamed and conducted with media and law enforcement on site. Staff offered that if anyone thought something illegal had occurred, they could report it to the law enforcement officers on site. DePerno chose not to do so, perhaps because he is aware that falsely reporting criminal activity to law enforcement is illegal, but lying on the internet is not.”